



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service

Fact Sheet

WTO and Agriculture What's at Stake for Pennsylvania?

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Pennsylvania produces and exports agricultural products. Forest products are also important. The state's farm cash receipts and forest product shipments totaled \$4.2 billion in 1998 and \$2.8 billion in 1996, respectively. As for exports, Pennsylvania's agricultural sales overseas reached an estimated \$580 million in 1998. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 8,800 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports are increasingly important to Pennsylvania's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports has risen from 10 percent to 14 percent since 1991.

The top five agricultural exports in 1998 were:

- # live animals and red meats -- \$154 million
- # poultry and products -- \$72 million
- # feed grains and products -- \$63 million
- # dairy products -- \$47 million
- # soybeans and products -- \$46 million

World demand is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Pennsylvania's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Pennsylvania Benefits from Trade Agreements

- # Pennsylvania, a major supplier of processed meats, stands to benefit from NAFTA as Mexico progressively eliminates its tariffs on all beef, pork and poultry meat products.
- # A large commercial apple producer, Pennsylvania benefits under the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement as Israel expands access to its apple market.
- # As a producer of soybean products, Pennsylvania benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan reduces its tariffs on soybean oil 36 percent by 2000.
- # Under the Uruguay Round, major U.S. trading partners are reducing their tariffs 28 percent on average for wood products.

